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# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

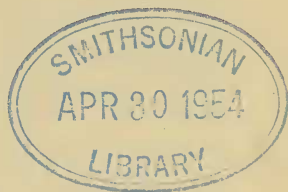
*Edited by*

**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**  
Secretary to the Commission

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## OPINION 208

Validation, under the Plenary Powers, of *Phyllacanthus*  
Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835  
(Class Echinoidea)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 208

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- Vice-President* : Dr. James L. Peters (*Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*).
- Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming, C.M.G., C.B.E. (*London, England*).

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- Mr. Francis HEMMING (London, England) (*Secretary to the Commission*).
- Dr. Karl JORDAN (British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts, England) (*President of the Commission*).
- Dr. Th. MORTENSEN (Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark).
- Dr. Joseph PEARSON (Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia).

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#### Class 1955

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- Dr. Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (Polish Zoological Museum, Warsaw, Poland).
- Dr. Norman R. STOLL (Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.A.).

### C. Alternate Members of the Commission at the Session held in Paris in 1948

- Professor Enrique BELTRÁN (Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables A.C., Mexico City, Mexico).
- Dr. Edward HINDLE (Zoological Society of London, London, England).
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- Professor Ragnar SPÄRCK (Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark).
- Professor Victor van STRAELEN (Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium).
- Professor Robert L. USINGER (University of California, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.).

## OPINION 208

### VALIDATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF "PHYLLACANTHUS" BRANDT, 1835, AND "STRONGYLOCENTROTUS" BRANDT, 1835 (CLASS ECHINOIDEA)

**RULING** :—(1) The following action is hereby taken under the Plenary Powers, in so far as the use of those Powers is necessary therefor :—(a) The names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835 (Class Echinoidea), are hereby validated as of subgeneric status as from the date on which they were published in Brandt's *Prodromus* ; (b) *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*) *dubius* Brandt, 1835, is hereby designated as the type species of *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835 ; (c) *Echinus dröbachiensis* Müller (O.F.), 1776, is hereby designated as the type species of *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835. (2) The generic names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835 (gender of name : masculine), and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835 (gender of name : masculine), validated as in (1)(a) above and with the type species severally designated therefor in (1)(b) and (1)(c) above, are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 636 and 637. (3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 12 and 13 : (a) *dubius* Brandt, 1835, as published in the combination *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*) *dubius*, (b) *dröbachiensis* Müller (O.F.), 1776, as published in the combination *Echinus dröbachiensis*.

#### I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

The present is the fifth of the eight cases relating to disputed Echinoderm names submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature by the late Dr. Th. Mortensen (*Universitetets Zoologisk Museum, Copenhagen*) under cover of

a letter dated 17th November 1932. The arguments in regard to these cases are set out in a paper by Dr. Mortensen entitled "A Vote on some Echinoderm Names", which had been published a month earlier (Mortensen, October 1932, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (10)10 : 345—368). This application is concerned with the names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835. The point at issue was a simple one : The above names had been accepted by Agassiz and subsequent workers as having been published by Brandt as the names of subgenera, the former, of *Cidarites*, the latter, of *Echinus*, but in 1909 Lambert & Thiéry had claimed that the manner in which these names had been published by Brandt showed that he regarded them not as names for new subgenera but as synonyms of *Cidarites* and *Echinus* respectively. The purpose of Dr. Mortensen's application was to secure from the International Commission an authoritative ruling that these names were to be accepted as having been published by Brandt with subgeneric status.

2. As has been explained in *Opinion* 206 (paragraphs 1 and 2) relating to the name *Diadema* Gray, 1825 (a case which was submitted jointly with the present case), an extensive canvas of the views of active workers in the Echinoderms had been undertaken by Dr. Mortensen before the present case was submitted to the International Commission. Of the thirty-nine (39) specialists who had taken part in this consultation Lambert alone did not sign the application to the Commission, which had the unanimous support of all the remaining thirty-eight (38) specialists concerned. Even Lambert appears to have felt some hesitation in this matter, for he wrote (Mortensen, 1932 : 356) : " Bien que regrettable je reconnais que ce changement peut être admis sans violer positivement le loi de priorité." The names and addresses of the specialists who took part in this consultation have already been given in *Opinion* 206 (*Diadema*).

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

3. In December 1932 the then Secretary (the late Dr. C. W. Stiles) reported Dr. Mortensen's application to the Commission

in Circular Letter 220. On 20th December of that year, he wrote also to the Director of the United States Geological Survey, expressing the hope that arrangements might be made for these proposals to be examined by the palaeontologists of the Survey. On 19th January 1933, the Director replied, forwarding five comments by members of the staff, of which one was signed by two workers. These comments, in so far as they relate to the present case, were as follows :—

(a) *Comment by L. W. Stephenson and C. Wythe Cooke :*

I am in favor of codifying names concerning the strict validity of which there may be some question, if they have been in generally accepted use for long periods, but when it can be shown clearly that some other name has priority over a later more generally used name . . . is there not a danger of adding to, rather than subtracting from, the confusion? Will not some authors accept the rulings of the International Commission, while others will continue stoutly to maintain the validity of the names having priority? Furthermore, will not such rulings encourage a flood of demands for suspension of the Rules?

(b) *Comment by Lloyd G. Henbest :*

Dr. Mortensen's petition to conserve and restore certain Echinoderm names seems to be reasonable, except in the case of (Here are mentioned certain names with which this *Opinion* is not concerned.)

(c) *Comment (dated 6th January 1933) by John B. Reeside, Jr.:*

I see no particular objection to placing all of the names on the *List* of established names.

(d) *Comment by Edwin Kirke :*

I concur, except in the case of *Diadema* (see *Opinion* 206)

(e) *Comment (dated 16th January 1933) by W. P. Woodring :*

I am not familiar with the usage of these Echinoderm names, but as a general principle—other things being equal—I am in favor of special protection for names of long-standing usage that are being threatened.

4. In December 1933 Dr. Stiles reported to the Commission (in Circular Letter 245) the comments received earlier that year from the palaeontologists of the Geological Survey. In March 1935 Dr. Stiles reported to the Commission (in Circular Letter

291) that he had received no further comments on this or the other proposals submitted by Dr. Mortensen and his colleagues, and suggested that these proposals should be considered by the Commission when it met at Lisbon in September of that year.

5. When the International Commission assembled at Lisbon in 1935, the Secretary was absent through ill-health and the documents relating to this case were not available. The Commission accordingly found itself unable to deal with the present application.

6. No further progress had been made with this application at the time when, following the election of Mr. Francis Hemming to be Secretary to the International Commission in succession to Dr. Stiles, the papers relating to this and other current cases were transferred to his care in 1938. On the re-organisation of the Secretariat, the applications submitted by Dr. Mortensen, other than that relating to the name *Diadema* Gray, 1825, were grouped together under the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)18. Later, however, it was judged more convenient to register each of these cases separately, the Number Z.N.(S.)319 being then allotted to the present case. It had not been found possible to advance the consideration of this case when in September 1939 the outbreak of war in Europe led to the evacuation of the records of the Commission from London to the country as a precaution against the risk of destruction through air raids. The Secretariat in London was re-opened in 1942 and steps were immediately taken to establish the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* as a means for bringing to the attention of zoologists applications submitted to the International Commission for decision. Work was at once started on outstanding applications with a view to arranging for their publication in the newly established *Bulletin*. Unfortunately, however, it was not then possible to send the present case to the printer, for the paper of 1932 in which it had originally been submitted did not deal with the matter in sufficient detail, and the circumstances of the war made it impossible at that time to communicate with Dr. Mortensen in Denmark.

7. In the summer of 1946 the conclusion of hostilities in Europe restored opportunities for foreign travel, and Dr. Mortensen paid a visit to London largely for the purpose of discussing with Mr.

Hemming the arrangements to be made for the further consideration of this, and his other, applications by the International Commission. It was then agreed that, as a first step, Dr. Mortensen should prepare, and should furnish to Mr. Hemming as quickly as possible, separate applications of a somewhat fuller kind in regard to each of the outstanding cases which in 1932 he had submitted collectively in his paper "A Vote on some Echinoderm Names" (paragraph 1).

8. Dr. Mortensen's revised application in the present case was received on 14th June 1947. It was as follows:—

**On the status of the names "Phyllacanthus" Brandt and  
"Strongylocentrotus" Brandt (Class Echinoidea,  
Orders Cidaroida and Camarodonta)**

By TH. MORTENSEN, Ph.D.

In December 1932, I submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a request that under their Plenary Powers they should validate certain generic names in the Phylum Echinoderma which under the *Règles Internationales* were either invalid or had, as their type species, other species than those universally attributed to them. In each case I was of opinion that greater confusion than uniformity would clearly result from the strict application of the *Règles*. In this view I was supported by a large number of the leading specialists in this group. Full particulars of these cases were given in a paper entitled "A Vote on some Echinoderm names" published in October 1932 (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* (10)10 : 345—368). Owing to the ill-health of the then Secretary of the International Commission, and for other reasons, no progress was made with any of these applications except that of *Luidia* Forbes, which has been settled by the Commission in *Opinion* 129. The need for decisions on these cases has increased in urgency in the interval elapsed since 1932 and I now ask the Commission to take each of these cases into immediate consideration.

*Discussion of the case of the two genera named above.*

In his *Prodromus descriptionis animalium ab H. Mertensio in orbis terrarum circumnavigatione observatorum* (1835), J. F. Brandt established the subgenera *Phyllacanthus* and *Strongylocentrotus* respectively under the genera *Cidarites* and *Echinus*, the former with the species *dubia* Brandt, the latter with the species *chlorocentrotus* Brandt, as the only species named and accordingly the genotypes. The two

subgenera of Brandt were accepted by Agassiz in his "Revision of the Echini", who referred to them, besides the two genotypes, a great number of species, which have later on been shown (Mortensen, "Ingolf" Echinoidea—I.) to belong to several different genera. But the two names have constantly been used in echinological literature and, particularly *Strongylocentrotus*, are well-known names in biological literature in general.

In 1909, Lambert & Thiéry, in their "Notes échinologiques.—II. Sur les genres d'Echinides proposés par Brandt en 1835" (*Bull. Soc. Sci. nat. Haute-Marne*, 4), maintain that the two said names are simply synonyms respectively of *Cidarites* and *Echinus*, and proceed to make a lot of rearrangements of Echinoid nomenclature, the more extraordinary since, founding on their principle that classification of recent Echini must be based solely on such characters as can also be found in the fossil forms, they quite ignore the results of studies on microscopical characters of Echini.

It is perhaps possible that, on a very strict interpretation, the two names were really only meant as synonyms of *Cidarites* and *Echinus*, but the two names were rightly established as generic names by Agassiz, and, as they have since been generally adopted and are very generally known, it would be quite absurd now to drop them because of a very disputable interpretation of what was the original meaning of the author of these names.

In order to avoid the confusion in Echinoid nomenclature resulting from the highly disputable interpretation of Brandt's work maintained by Lambert & Thiéry, I ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, acting under the Plenary Power conferred upon them by the International Congress of Zoology, to place the two said names with genotypes, as specified, on the *Official List of Generic Names* :

*Phyllacanthus* Brandt, with genotype *Phyllacanthus dubius* Brandt (*Op. cit.* p. 68)

*Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, with genotype *Echinus chlorocentrotus* Brandt (*Op. cit.* 1835, p. 64). This species being a synonym of *Echinus dröbachiensis* O. Fr. Müller (1776. *Zoologia Danicae Prodrromus*, p. 235), this latter eo ipso becomes the genotype of *Strongylocentrotus*.

The two names are used in this sense in my Monograph of the Echinoidea I. p. 500 and 3. Part III. p. 193.

In my "Vote on some Echinoderm names" quoted above, this proposal was supported by : Bather, Brighton, A. H. Clark, H. L. Clark, Cottreau, Currie, Deichmann, Diakonov, Döderlein, Ekman, Faas, Fedotov, Fisher, Gislén, Goto, Gregory, Grieg, Hawkins, Hecker, Heding, Hérouard, v. Hofsten, Jackson, Klinghardt, Lieberkind, Mortensen, Nobre, Ohshima, Panning, Ravn, Reichensperger, Schmidt, Spencer, Stefanini, Valette, Vaney, Wanner, Yakovlev.



9. On 14th November 1947 a notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was issued to the serial publications prescribed by the Ninth International Congress of Zoology, Monaco, 1913. The publication of this notice elicited no objections to the action proposed in this case.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

10. The present application was considered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature at the Fourteenth Meeting of its Paris Session held at the Sorbonne in the Amphithéâtre Louis-Liard on Monday, 26th July 1948 at 2030 hours. The following is an extract from the Official Record of the Proceedings of the International Commission (1) summarising the points made in the discussion at the foregoing meeting and (2) setting out the decision then reached by the Commission in regard to this case (Paris Session, 14th Meeting, Conclusion 35) (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 519—522) :—

THE COMMISSION examined Commission File Z.N.(S.) 319, containing an application submitted by Dr. (now Commissioner) Th. Mortensen (Denmark) on his own behalf and on that of a large group of other specialists in the Class Echinoidea that the Commission should use their Plenary Powers to direct that the names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835 (Class Echinoidea, Order Cidaroida) and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835 (Class Echinoidea, Order Camarodonta) were to be treated as having been published by the above author as subgeneric names with *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*) *dubius* Brandt, 1835, and *Echinus* (*Strongylocentrotus*) *chlorocentrotus* Brandt, 1835, as respective type species. Dr. Mortensen explained that the names *Phyllacanthus* and *Strongylocentrotus* were accepted by Agassiz and by all subsequent authors up to the year 1909. Both names, especially *Strongylocentrotus*, had in this way become widely known, not

only in echinological literature, but also in biological literature generally. In 1909, however, Lambert and Thiéry had advanced the view that these names had not been published by Brandt as new subgeneric names, but as synonyms, respectively, of *Cidarites* Leske, 1778, and *Echinus* Linnaeus, 1758. On the basis of this conclusion, these authors had then proceeded to make a considerable number of consequential changes in the nomenclature of the group of which these genera formed part. The conclusions reached by Lambert and Thiéry in regard to Brandt's intentions when he published these two names were regarded as highly disputable by echinologists generally, by whom the changes in nomenclature suggested by Lambert and Thiéry had not been accepted. While in Dr. Mortensen's view, it was possible that these two names had, in fact, been looked upon by Brandt as synonyms (of *Cidarites* and *Echinus* respectively), the practical application of this conclusion would, in his opinion and in that of the large number of specialists associated with him in the present application, lead to great confusion and could not possibly be justified. The present application had been one of the eight applications on which Dr. Mortensen had consulted 38 leading specialists before (in 1932) he submitted his proposals to the Commission. Of these specialists (the names of whom have been given in Conclusion 32), 37 had voted in favour of the submission of the present proposals to the Commission, the sole exception being Lambert himself.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT (MR. FRANCIS HEMMING) said that the present case had been advertised but the advertisement had elicited no adverse comment on the action proposed. As regards the trivial name of the type species of the genus *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, the Acting President observed that that species was invariably known by the trivial name *drøbachiensis* Müller (O.F.), 1776, (as published in the binominal combination *Echinus drøbachiensis*) and that, in view of the fact that it was proposed in any case to use the Plenary Powers to validate the generic name *Strongylocentrotus*, and to designate its type species, it would be desirable at the same time to designate the foregoing nominal species to be the type species rather than the

nominal species *Echinus (Strongylocentrotus) chlorocentrotus* Brandt, 1835, the name under which the taxonomic species concerned had been cited by Brandt, when he published the name *Strongylocentrotus*.

IN DISCUSSION the view was expressed that it would clearly be wrong to countenance the introduction of extensive and confusing changes in the nomenclature of a group, on the strength solely of an argument which (as here) rested upon a subjective interpretation of the intention of a given author when publishing a given name, when (as here) that interpretation was contested by almost the entire body of interested specialists. In view of the doubts arising from the interpretation by Lambert and Thiéry of Brandt's intentions when he first published the names *Phyllacanthus* and *Strongylocentrotus*, it would be necessary for the Commission to use their Plenary Powers, in order to put an end to further discussion. It would be desirable, however, that, in this, as in previous similar cases, the Commission should use those powers conditionally and to such extent (if any) as might be necessary. In other words, the Commission should make it clear that in using those powers for the purpose of validating the foregoing names as of subgeneric status as from Brandt, 1835, they did so only if and in so far as this course was necessary to attain the desired end and that their action in this matter was not to be construed as expressing an opinion on the question whether (as alleged by Lambert and Thiéry) the names in question had been regarded by their original author, not as subgeneric names, but as synonyms of the generic names, with which these names had been severally associated by that author.

THE COMMISSION agreed :—

- (1) to use their Plenary Powers :—
  - (a) to such extent as might be necessary :—
    - (i) to validate the names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835 (Class Echinoidea, Order Cidaroida) as of subgeneric status as from the date of being so published ;
    - (ii) to designate *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*) *dubius* Brandt, 1835, as the type species of *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835,
  - (b) to designate *Echinus drobachiensis* Müller (O.F.), 1776, to be the types species of the genus *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835 ;
- (2) to place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835, validated as in (1) above and with the type species there severally specified ;
- (3) to place the undermentioned trivial names on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* :—
  - dubius* Brandt, 1835 (as published in the binominal combination *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*) *dubius*) ;
  - drobachiensis* Müller (O.F.), 1776 (as published in the binominal combination *Echinus drobachiensis*) ;
- (4) to render an *Opinion* recording the decisions specified in (1) to (3) above.

11. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the decision set out in the immediately preceding paragraph :—

*drobachiensis*, *Echinus*, Müller (O.F.), 1776, *Zool. dan. Prodr.* : 235  
*dubius*, *Cidarites* (*Phyllacanthus*), Brandt (J.F.), 1835, *Prodr.*

*Descr. Anim. Mertens. Orb. Terr. Circumnav. observ. 1* : 68  
*Phyllacanthus* Brandt (J.F.), 1835, *Prodr. Descr. Anim. Mertens. Orb. Terr. Circumnav. observ. 1* : 67  
*Strongylocentrotus* Brandt (J.F.), 1835, *Prodr. Descr. Anim. Mertens. Orb. Terr. Circumnav. observ. 1* : 63

12. The genders of the generic names *Phyllacanthus* Brandt, 1835, and *Strongylocentrotus* Brandt, 1835, referred to in the decision quoted in paragraph 10 above, are both masculine.

13. The decision taken in this case was reported to, and approved by, the Section on Nomenclature of the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 at its Sixth Meeting held on 26th July 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl. 5* : 116—117).

14. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was concurred in by the sixteen (16) Commissioners and Alternate Commissioners present at the Paris Session of the International Commission, namely :—

Beltrán *vice* Cabrera ; Boshma ; Bradley ; di Caporiacco ; Hemming ; Hindle *vice* Jordan ; Jorge *vice* do Amaral ; Kirby *vice* Stoll ; Lemche *vice* Dymond ; Mansour *vice* Hankó ; Metcalf *vice* Peters ; Riley *vice* Calman ; Rode ; Spärck *vice* Mortensen ; van Straelen *vice* Richter ; Usinger *vice* Vokes.

15. The Ruling given in the present *Opinion* was dissented from by no Commissioner or Alternate Commissioner present at the Paris Session.

16. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression “ trivial name ” and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word “ trivial ” appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression “ specific name ” was substituted for the

expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Two Hundred and Eight (208) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London this Twenty-second day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Three.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**